

Incarnation Vs Avatar

Some tend to confuse the incarnation of Christ with the avatars of Hinduism. There are a few who even consider Christ to be the tenth avatar or the Kalki avatar. However, there are significant fundamental differences between the incarnation and the avatars. Following are a few of them:

THE INCARNATION

- 1. Real.** Christ truly incarnated in flesh, real flesh.
- 2. Permanent.** The incarnation was permanent and irrevocable. Christ continues to be in flesh.
- 3. Complete.** Christ became full man. He is full man and full God.
- 4. Propitiatory.** Christ's incarnation was propitiatory. He came in flesh to represent man to God as a Mediator and High Priest, and to sacrifice His body for the sins of the world. There would not be a need for omnipotent God to incarnate in order to destroy sinners.
- 5. Revolutionary.** Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection destroys the old order and establishes a new order. The new order is the Kingdom of believers in Christ, who partake of the resurrection from the dead and inherit the Kingdom of the Son.
- 6. Impartational.** The virtue of the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Christ is imparted to the believer who is reckoned to be united with Christ in His Body.
- 7. Final.** Christ's incarnation was final. It can't be repeated again.
- 8. Trinitarian.** The doctrinal setting of incarnation is Trinitarianism. There is only One God who is Triune, Tri-personal, and distinct from the universe.

THE AVATAR

- 1. Appearance.** The avatar appears to be in flesh.
- 2. Impermanent.** The avatar returns to its former form after the fulfillment of its mission.
- 3. Partial.** The avatar is semi and partial. It is never fully incarnated.
- 4. Vindictory.** The avatar appears to destroy the sinners and to save the righteous.
- 5. Restorative.** The avatar restores the world to its original state of balance (dharma) by removing the elements of wickedness (adharma). The world then moves along in the same way until the surge of iniquity again invokes another avatara.
- 6. Segregated.** The avatar preserves a discontinuity between the world and the deity throughout. They are never united in one.
- 7. Several.** The avatars are many and cyclical.
- 8. Polytheistic.** The setting of avatars is polytheistic that avouches myriads of finite gods, demons, the world of magic, and a cyclical and evolutionary view of the universe.